PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING RAILWAYS).

Subject No. 20.
Railway to Chikmagalur and on to French Rocks.

Summary of discussion.—A railway line should be opened from Kadur to Chikmagalur and on to Hassan *via* Belur, joining the present line at French Rocks thus opening up the large grain producing tracts of the State. Roughly estimated, the hire of carts now carrying traffic between Kadur and Chikmagalur alone amounts to a lakh and twenty thousand rupees. There is further the Tonga service, besides a lakh or two of coolies travelling on foot.

Mr. Pilkington of the North Mysore Planters' Association also urged the desirability of constructing a line from Kadur to Chikmagalur.

Reply of Government.—Traffic prospects will be enquired into. Two alternative lines have been investigated, but on receipt of the statistics required, the matter will be further considered.

Subject No. 21.
Roads and Bridges.

Summary of discussion.—The Government is to be congratulated upon the marked improvement perceptible in the Malnad roads and thanks are due for the sanction accorded to the construction of a bridge at Tadasa. There is however scope for further improvement. With the greater amount of road and bridge work now going on, a better staff of officers to superintend it is necessary. Attention should be paid to the state of certain roads, their diminishing breadth, drainage, and the overgrowth of roadside jungle. A bridge is required across the Yennehalla.

Reply of Government.—The needful will be done as far as possible.

Subject No. 22.
Early opening of the Tarikere-Birur Section of Shimoga Railway.

Summary of discussion.—The Tarikere-Birur section of the Shimoga Railway may be opened on completion instead of being delayed until the Tarikere-Shimoga section is also finished, as it is hoped that the opening of this section, together with the completion of the Bhadra bridge at Tadasa, will lead to increase in the food supply to the Koppa taluk and Sringeri Jahgir before next monsoon.

Reply of Government.—It is intended to open the Tarikere-Birur section first.

Subject No. 23.
Inconvenience caused by accepting voluntary contributions towards irrigation works costing above Rs. 25,000.

Summary of discussion.—Though avowedly no contribution is leviable, yet preference is given to irrigation works in respect of which contribution is forthcoming. This in effect nullifies the concession shown to the raiyats, besides retarding the preparation of projects and commencement of work. After all, the contribution is not much and may be waived by Government.

Reply of Government.—Contribution is leviable under the rules. Good projects however are not delayed, simply because voluntary contributions are not forthcoming.